

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00660 081055Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 110937

P 080959Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6884

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 0660

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MASS,SA,US JO

SUBJECT: HAWK FINANCING

REF: AMMAN 601; JIDDA 851

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY JIDDA'S LATEST MESSAGE ON HAWK ISSUE AND JUDGMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS IT CONTAINS. WE ARE NOT SURPRISED BY SAUDI ATTITUDE OF WANTING TO LET MATTER COOK ALONG AT ITS OWN PACE IN THE HOPE PRESUMABLY THAT SOME FINAL WORKING OUT WILL TAKE PLACE IN ITS OWN GOOD TIME. IN CONTRAST, SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TWO DAYS AGO AND SAID HE THOUGHT QUESTION WAS ALL SET AND THAT SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER HAD TAKEN BACK TO FAHD FAVORABLE REPORT ON EXPENDITURES. HE WAS INSISTENT INCIDENTALLY THAT FINAL FIGURE GIVEN SAG BY JORDANIANS WAS DOLS 792 MILLION, NOT DOLS 713 WHICH WE HAD GIVEN THEM.

2. ON THE ISSUE OF JORDANIAN PERSEVERANCE, WE AGREE THAT JORDANIANS SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE THE PRINCIPAL RUNNING. INCIDENTALLY, OUR COMMENT (PARA 2, JIDDA 851) THAT HAWK ISSUE DISCUSSED BY FAHD AND RIFAI "ONLY PERIPHERALLY" ARISES BECAUSE FAHD TOLD RIFAI, ACCORDING TO RIFAI, THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SEE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 00660 081055Z

HIM IN RIYADH LAST WEEK IN EFFECT IF IT CONCERNED

MONEY. RIFAI SAID HE HAD TO PROMISE IT WOULD NOT BE THE MAJOR SUBJECT (WHICH WERE APPARENTLY JORDAN-EGYPT RELATIONS, JEWISH PRAYERS AT AL-AQSA MOSQUE, AND NEXT STEPS IN THE AREA) IN ORDER TO GET A FIRM DATE FIXED. BUT ANYONE WHO KNOWS RIFAI, KNOWS HE IS NO SHRINKING VIOLET WHEN IT COMES TO PUSHING FOR MONEY.

3. IN ADDITION JORDANIANS SENT CHIEF OF STAFF TO JIDDA IN DECEMBER, KING SAW KHALID IN THE DESERT JANUARY 22, AND SAUDIS SENT FINANCE MINISTER HERE TO TALK HAWK FINANCING FOLLOWING KING'S PANIC TELEPHONE CALL TO FAHD OF JANUARY 27. ALL THIS TOOK PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF AN EARLIER AUTUMN VISIT BY KING TO SAUDI ARABIA, SEVERAL TRIPS BY RIFAI, AND THE KHALID DECEMBER VISIT HERE. ON EACH OF THESE OCCASIONS JORDANIANS HAVE SAID THEY PUSHED HARD FOR THE HAWK MONEY. NEVERTHELESS, IF JIDDA'S VIEW IS THAT THEY HAVE NOT DONE ENOUGH AND THAT SAUDIS WILL NOT BECOME MORE HARDENED IN THEIR PRESENT VIEW AS A RESULT OF MORE PUSHING, I AM READY FURTHER TO ENCOURAGE KING AND RIFAI TO HAVE ANOTHER GO.

4. THIS EMBASSY HAS IN THE PAST BEEN AHEAD OF WASHINGTON IN FEEDING JORDANIANS LETTERS AND ARGUMENTS ON THE NEED TO PUSH SAUDIS. AT THE MOMENT RIFAI SAYS HE HAS BEEN TOLD BY FAHD TO RELAX AND LET SAG HANDLE THE PROBLEM WITH THE U.S., WHICH APPARENTLY IS UNDER A TINY CLOUD FOR HAVING HANDED THE SAUDIS AND THE JORDANIANS LAST WEEK AN "ULTIMATUM" -- OR AT LEAST THIS SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME ANOTHER SAG REASON FOR NOT MOVING AHEAD.

5. IF ALL OF THIS WERE NOT COMPLICATED ENOUGH, APPARENTLY OUR OWN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, WITH EVERY GOOD INTENTION, BUT WITHOUT LETTING US, THE JORDANIANS OR THE SAUDIS KNOW, SIGNED CONTRACTS ON WHICH PAYMENTS ARE NOW BECOMING DUE (FEBRUARY 29). JORDANIAN POSITION WAS AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AS BADLY AS THEY NEED THIS SYSTEM, NOT TO SPEND ANY MONEY (WITH ONE EXCEPTION-- TRAINING-- WHICH JORDAN WAS PREPARED TO PAY FOR ON ITS OWN) UNTIL SAUDIS HAVE FULLY COMMITTED THEMSELVES. THIS ALSO HAS BEEN OUR POSITION HERE. UNFORTUNATELY,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 00660 081055Z

THE CONTRACTS ARE NOW SIGNED. WHEN FEBRUARY 29 ROLLS AROUND, WE KNOW JORDAN HAS NO FUNDS TO MAKE DEFENSE WHOLE. THIS IS THE ONLY REASON WHY WE SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS A U.S. INTEREST IN APPROACHING THE SAUDIS IN WASHINGTON TO SEE IF THEY WANT ANY QUESTIONS ANSWERED. BUT WE OBVIOUSLY DEFER ON THIS TO DEPARTMENT, DEFENSE AND JIDDA WHICH ARE MORE CLEARLY AWARE OF OUR TOTAL PROBLEM WITH THE SAUDIS.

6. ON THE QUESTION OF THE JORDANIAN EMBASSY IN JIDDA,  
WE HAVE BEEN DOING WHAT WE CAN TO GET THE KING TO CHANGE  
HIS AMBASSADOR THERE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. RIGHT  
NOW WE HAVE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THIS POINT AGAIN--  
SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE, WHO HAS BEEN HERE FOR 27 RPT 27 YEARS, TO  
KING'S GREAT PERSONAL RELIEF IS FINALLY BEING REASSIGNED;  
JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR INJIDDA IS BEING SENT ON MISSION TO MOROCCO  
AND SAHARA TO HELP ASSESS MAURITANIAN MILITARY NEEDS; AND GROWING  
FEELING UPON REFLECTION THAT WHOLE HAWK ISSUE (IN SPITE OF  
JORDANIAN VIEW THAT ONLY KING, PRIME MINISTER AND CHIEF OF STAFF  
CAN REACH HIGH ENOUTH IN SAUDI HIERARCHY TO COUNT) COULD BE  
BETTER HANDLED IN SAUDI ARABIA BY A FUNCTIONING EMBASSY. WE ARE  
HOWEVER NOT SURE THAT THIS EFFORT WILL PAY OFF BUT ARE PREPARED  
TO HAVE ANOTHER GO AROUND, IF DEPARTMENT HAS  
NO OBJECTIONS.  
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MISSILES, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** blochd0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976AMMAN00660  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760048-0228  
**From:** AMMAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760270/aaaacjuu.tel  
**Line Count:** 131  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 AMMAN 601, 76 JIDDA 851  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** blochd0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 OCT 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <15 JUN 2004 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <05 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by blochd0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HAWK FINANCING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, SA, US, JO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006